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Appl. No.: 10/630,905
Amendment dated March 19, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 9, 2008

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-assisted process for converting a displayed contract text document into a workflow process, comprising the steps of:

(1) detecting a plurality of distinct user-selected text portions of the displayed contract text document;

(2) for each of the plurality of distinct user-selected text portions, analyzing the user-selected text portion of the document to identify at least one corresponding user-selected workflow process parameter;

(3) storing each user-selectable text portion with corresponding user-selectable workflow process parameters into a data structure representing an ordering of information to be elicited when the workflow process is executed; and

(4) executing a computer-based contract negotiation workflow process using the data structure as a template to drive the workflow process.

2. (Original) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein the user-selected workflow process parameters comprise an ordered phase of the workflow process, wherein the ordered phase determines a first grouping of information that will be elicited when the workflow process is executed.

3. (Original) The computer-assisted process of claim 2, wherein the user-selected workflow process parameters comprise a step within the ordered phase of the workflow process, wherein the step determines the order within the phase in which corresponding information will be elicited when the workflow process is executed.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein the user-selected workflow process parameters comprise questions to be asked during step (4).

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5. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (1) comprises the step of displaying transaction negotiation process parameters.

6. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of detecting user-selected modification of a label used to designate a phase.

7. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of detecting user-selected creation of a question to be asked.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of detecting user-selected valid responses for a question that will be asked during the workflow process.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of detecting user-selected dependencies among questions.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of detecting user-selected specification of a placeholder.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of detecting user-selected specification of a re-ordering of a previously specified workflow process parameter.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (2) comprises the step of detecting at least one user-selected specification of a phase; a step within the phase; and a question within the step.

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13. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the step of converting the user-selectable text portions and user-selectable workflow process parameters in step (1) into an XML document.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (4) comprises the step of generating computer displays containing one or more of the workflow process parameters identified in step (2).

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (4) comprises the step of generating computer displays that are arranged into phases containing steps, wherein the steps comprise one or more questions.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a new document containing information elicited during step (4).

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, further comprising the step of permitting the user to modify the workflow process parameters identified in step (2).

18. (Original) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (1) comprises the step of detecting one of a phase; a step within a phase; or a question within a step; and further comprising the step of detecting text to be associated with the one phase; step; or question.

19. (Original) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein step (1) comprises the step of using voice recognition to detect the at least one workflow process parameter.

20. (Previously Presented) A computer-assisted method of reverse engineering a contract text document into a data structure representing a workflow process, comprising the steps of:

(1) displaying the contract text document on a computer screen;

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(2) receiving user input from editing tools superimposed over the contract text document, wherein the editing tools permit the user to tag the document with associated workflow process parameters based on user-selected portions of the document; and

(3) generating and storing the data structure as a template for driving the workflow process from the tagged document.

21. (Original) The computer-assisted method of claim 20, wherein the workflow process parameters comprise a user-specified question that will be asked during execution of the workflow process.

22. (Original) The computer-assisted method of claim 20, wherein the workflow process parameters comprise a user-specified order of a question that will be asked during execution of the workflow process.

23. (Original) The computer-assisted method of claim 20, wherein the workflow process parameters comprise a user-specified phase; a user-specified step; and a user-specified question.

24. (Original) The computer-assisted method of claim 23, wherein the user-specified phase indicates a phase during the workflow execution process during which the user-selected portions of the document will be solicited.

25. (Original) The computer-assisted method of claim 23, wherein the user-specified step indicates a step during the workflow execution process during which the user-selected portions of the document will be solicited.

26. (Original) The computer-assisted method of claim 23, wherein the user-specified question comprises a question to be solicited during the workflow execution process to elicit information corresponding to one of the user-selected portions of the document.

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27. (Previously Presented) A computer-assisted process for converting a contract text document into a workflow process, comprising the steps of:

- (1) displaying the contract text document on a computer screen;
- (2) detecting user-selected text portions of the text document on the computer screen;
- (3) detecting user-selected options for associating each user-selected text portion with a plurality of workflow process parameters including at least an indication of when information corresponding to the user-selected text portion will be solicited during the workflow process and an indication of how information corresponding to the user-selected text portion will be solicited during the workflow process;
- (4) generating a template comprising a data structure that contains portions of the text document and the associations detected in step (3);
- (5) based on the data structure generated in step (4), executing the workflow process by generating prompts to solicit information based on the template; and
- (6) in response to detecting responses to the prompts, generating a new contract text document reflecting information entered in response to the prompts.

28. (Original) The computer-assisted process of claim 27, wherein step (4) comprises the step of generating an XML structured document that contains portions of the text document and the associates detected in step (3).

29. (Original) The computer-assisted process of claim 27, wherein step (5) comprises the step of generating computer displays that are partitioned into distinct phases comprised of steps, wherein each step comprises at least one question.

30. (Original) The computer-assisted process of claim 27, wherein step (5) comprises the step of generating a single computer screen for each of a plurality of distinct steps in the workflow process.

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31. (Previously Presented) A system for deconstructing a contract text document into a workflow process, comprising:

means for detecting user-selected text portions of the displayed contract text document and for detecting at least one user-selected workflow process parameter associated with each user-selected text portion of the document;

means for converting the user-selectable text portions and user-selectable workflow process parameters into a template comprising a data structure representing an ordering of information to be elicited when the workflow process is executed; and

means for using the template to drive the workflow process.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the means for using the template to drive the workflow process generates a plurality of computer displays that are arranged into phases, steps, and questions ordered into a sequence determined by a plurality of user-selected workflow process parameters.

33. (Previously Presented) A system for deconstructing a contract document into a workflow process, comprising:

a document editing tool that permits a user to select text portions of the contract document and to associate with each text portion one or more workflow process parameters that determine a sequence or content of one aspect of the workflow process;

a document generator that converts the selected text portions and associated workflow process parameters into a template comprising a data structure that represents an ordered sequencing of the workflow process; and

a structured transaction engine that generates computer displays that prompt a user to enter information based on the one or more workflow process parameters stored in the template.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the workflow process comprises a transaction negotiation process.

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35. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 27, wherein the workflow process comprises a transaction negotiation process.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the workflow process comprises a transaction negotiation process.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the workflow process comprises a transaction negotiation process.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer-assisted process of claim 1, wherein the user-selected workflow process parameters comprise a placeholder indication.

39. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing the user-selected text portion of the document to identify at least one corresponding user-selected workflow process parameter comprises tagging the document based on the plurality of distinct user-selected text portions and corresponding user-selected workflow process parameters.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the data structure comprises an XML file, and wherein analyzing the user-selected text portion of the document to identify at least one corresponding user-selected workflow process parameter comprises tagging the XML file to include the corresponding user-selected workflow process parameters identified from the user-selected text portions.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, controlled by a software tool usable by a user to specify the order in which the tagged information is provided within the workflow process.